

THE DISTRIBUTION OF ONYCHOPHORA IN NEW GUINEA AND NEIGHBORING ISLANDS*

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Just half a century has elapsed since the presence of Onychophora in the Papuan area was first recognized. In 1898 Willey described *Peripatus novæ-britanniæ* from New Britain and since then eight others have been added from New Guinea and other adjacent islands. All of these belong to the genus *Paraperipatus*, but as in the dominant neotropical genera *Peripatus* and *Macroperipatus*, the species are closely similar. However, as they show recognizable and apparently constant structural differences they must be accorded specific or at least sub-specific rank. In 1931 Leloup proposed a new name for the whole group of Papuan species, which he designated as *Paraperipatus leopoldi* as a patriotic gesture to the Belgian king. This nomenclatorial *faux pas* was first noticed publicly by Brongersma ('32) who placed *P. leopoldi* as a synonym of *P. papuensis* Sedgwick. The latter is the first species described from New Guinea and furthermore the types came from the Arfak mountain range not far from the locality where Leloup's types were obtained. However, if several species are recognized this synonymy must remain doubtful.

During his stay as a military officer in New Guinea, Dr. P. J. Darlington of the Museum of Comparative Zoology collected three specimens of *Paraperipatus* in the Bismarck range of the central mountain system near latitude 145° E. They were taken at two elevations on Mount Wilhelm which rises to a height of 15,400 feet, first at an altitude of 8000 ft. in the forest below timber-line and again, in moss, at 10,000 ft. which is above timber-line. This is not very far from the type locality of *P. lorentzi*. There are two males, each with 21 pairs of legs and a single female with 22 pairs of legs. In this

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and in the size and distribution of the integumentary papillæ they agree closely with the original description of Horst ('10). I have previously recorded *P. lorentzi* from the Arfak mountains in western New Guinea on the basis of specimens sent me many years ago by Frederick Muir (Brues '21). These western individuals appear to approach *P. stresemanni* in having 23 pairs of legs in all three female specimens. They are now in the collections of the Museum of Comparative Zoology together with those more recently obtained by Dr. Darlington. The accompanying outline map shows the present known distribution of the Papuan *Paraperipatus*.¹



Fig. 1. Map showing the distribution of *Paraperipatus* in the Papuan area. 1, *P. ceramensis* (Ceram); 2, *P. stresemanni* (Ceram); 3, *P. keiensis* (Great Key Island); 4, *P. papuensis* (New Guinea); 5, *P. leopoldi* (New Guinea); 6, *P. vanheurni* (New Guinea); 7, *P. lorentzi* (New Guinea); 8, *P. novæ-britanniæ* (New Britain).

It is clear that they occur very generally throughout the area, but the scarcity of records and paucity of specimens indicates that they are by no means abundant. In New Guinea they seem to be restricted to high altitudes, although this is not true of the neighboring smaller islands.

TAXONOMIC REFERENCES TO PARAPERIPATUS

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¹ The type locality of *P. schultzei* Heymons is too vaguely indicated to place it on the map with full assurance.

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ANOTHER RECORD FOR MANTISPA INTERRUPTA SAY.—A few weeks ago Mr. F. R. Burrill gave me a fine, fresh specimen of *Mantispa interrupta* Say which he had taken in Lincoln on foliage of scrub oak, September 26, 1948. Examination of the collection in the Museum of Comparative Zoology revealed just one other Massachusetts specimen, which had been found at the Blue Hill Observatory, a few years ago, by Dr. C. F. Brooks, on Sept. 16, during a strong south wind. The new record suggests that this interesting Neuropteran may be a member of the fauna of this State. Mr. Burrill's specimen has been deposited in the M.C.Z.—NORMAN S. BAILEY, Boston University, Department of Biology.